

# CARTSNEWS

*The Official Journal of the Carolina Token Society*

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

At our May meeting in Hendersonville there were 9 members and 1 spouse in attendance. And 1 of the 9 was a new member who joined on the spot. It was another great meeting!

Treasurer Bob King reported that, after paying for the meeting room, there was a balance in the treasury of \$474.58. That may sound pretty good, but each quarter it now costs about \$60 to send out the newsletter, and a meeting room costs from \$85 to \$125 depending on location and how successful a bargain has been driven.

So, as detailed in the president's report, send those contributed tokens to me by October 15 at the latest. The November CARTSNEWS will contain a listing of all tokens. And, the November issue **WILL** reach you in time for you to enter a mail bid if you cannot join us on November 14.

Also, your hard working editor needs articles, new finds, letters to the editor, classified ads, reviews of token catalogs – you get the idea.

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Comments, suggestions, reactions, (maybe even) criticism, will be gratefully accepted. Let us know!

**Articles, New Finds, Announcements, and Classifieds to Don Bailey only! Dues to Bob King only!**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello to all CARTS members,

Greetings! I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. It's been hot here in South Carolina, so I'm looking forward to some cooler weather this fall. I'm also looking forward to **our next meeting, planned for November 14 at the Radisson Hotel in Spartanburg, SC**. We had a nice meeting there a couple of years ago and I hope we will have another successful one this November.

At the May meeting in Hendersonville it was discussed how our group could earn a few extra dollars. Our treasury has suffered a little lately due to increased costs for the newsletter (printing and postage) and increased room rental rates for our meetings. It was suggested that we try a benefit auction at the next meeting. That's where members donate (the operative word here is **donate**) a few tokens to our organization and all proceeds from their sale go into the treasury. If you would like to participate as a donor, please choose a few items and mail them to Don Bailey (PO Box 1272, Etowah, NC 28729). They do not have to be expensive pieces, although we won't refuse such. Token or medals worth only a couple of bucks will be greatly appreciated. Don will print a list of the donated items in the next newsletter and the auction will be held at the November 14 meeting. Members who cannot attend the meeting are welcome to send in bids by mail to Don before the meeting date. So please help us make this a successful event and send Don a few items to sell. I've already picked out a few tokens to send him myself. And perhaps this auction will bring a record turnout at the November meeting. See you there and don't forget to send Don some tokens soon, so that they can be listed in the next newsletter.

Happy Collecting,  
Tony Chibbaro  
CARTS President

# **UNION**

## **SOUTH CAROLINA WANTED**

### **POSTCARDS, TOKENS, PAPER MONEY**

**William M. Graham  
106 Hidden Hills Road, Union, SC 29379  
864-427-9560                            864-429-1260**

#### **When It Rains, It Pours**

**Tony Chibbaro**

**A**t the last CARTS meeting, I was pleased to be allowed to examine a rare South Carolina token for which I had been searching for almost 25 years. About midway through our meeting, CARTS member Harry Hoots handed me a 5¢ token from the Pendleton Manufacturing Company. Tokens from this company are not particularly rare. In fact, one can locate a specimen for sale in a fairly short period of time. But the token Harry showed me was different. Instead of the town name of LaFrance being displayed at the bottom of the obverse, Harry's token had the town name of Autun. I had heard rumors of such tokens as early as 1986, and had actually seen a picture of one in 2001, but I had never held one until our meeting.

Naturally, I asked Harry if it was for sale and he replied that he was not the token's owner, but was seeking information about the token. I was discouraged, of course, but hoped to have a chance to

purchase it from the undisclosed owner. After two subsequent phone calls to Harry over the next couple of weeks, I had pretty much resigned myself to missing out on the token when my luck suddenly changed. At the Anderson Coin Show I ran across the token again, this time in the possession of its owner (a coin dealer), and we were able to strike a deal! Very happily I put the token in my pocket and made the trip back to Columbia in a much more contented mood, thankful that I now owned a token which I had been seeking for years. But wait – it gets even better. The very next day, at a Civil War Relic Show in Columbia, I ran across a \$1 specimen, same issuer, same Autun address! And priced a whole lot cheaper!! Two tokens in 24 hours, after an almost 25 year long dry spell. When it rains, it pours!



And now for a little background on the token and the company. The Pendleton Manufacturing Company was one of the first textile mills to operate in South Carolina. Founded in 1838 by Benjamin Sloan and four partners, the mill was constructed on Twenty-three Mile Creek in Anderson County, about three miles south of Pendleton. The company changed hands in 1866, and again in 1879, when it was purchased by Col. J.W. Norris and Augustus Sitton. It was at this time that the settlement which had grown up around the mill became known as Autun. Up until that time the community was simply called Pendleton Factory. Sitton renamed the community with what is believed to be the "put-together" name of Autun, formed by a contraction of his wife's maiden name (Aull), with his own last name (Sitton). The town was known as such until 1927, when the mill was sold to LaFrance Industries and the name was changed to LaFrance. The mill still operates today as a division of Mount Vernon Mills, making upholstery fabric and other specialty textiles.

The 23mm octagonal brass token illustrated above is not one of the first pieces of exonumia issued by the company, nor is it among the last. Paper scrip notes were first issued in the 1840s and saw circulation locally for a number of years. A second series of paper notes was printed in 1862, reusing the unissued remainder notes from the 1840s as stock paper. All of these paper notes are rare, with only a few of each denomination known to exist. The token which is the subject of this article was probably struck in the 1890s or early 1900s. Only one 5 cent token and two \$1 tokens are presently known. A second set of tokens was issued during the 1930s. This set has the town name as LaFrance, so it was definitely issued after the buyout by LaFrance Industries. The one cent tokens from this set are encountered fairly frequently, but all other denominations are difficult to come by, especially the largest ones, which are downright rare. I don't even have a \$1 or 50¢ token in my collection from this second set. But who knows, it may start raining again tomorrow!

## New Finds from South Carolina

**Tony Chibbaro**

Tokens from two newly encountered merchants comprise the New Finds column in this issue of CARTSNEWS. The first token is from Columbia and was issued by C.G. Oehmig. I obtained this token back in February at the Spartanburg Coin Show. I had never heard of a token from this merchant before and had no information about his business before doing some directory research. Charles G. Oehmig was listed as operating a bakery in Columbia from 1908 to 1921. The token measures 22mm in diameter and is made of aluminum. Five cents would have purchased one loaf of bread in 1908.



This issue's second new find came courtesy of eBay back in the springtime. The 19mm aluminum token was issued by Farmer's Drug Company of Hemingway. The business was in operation from 1913 through 1925. This is the first token reported from this merchant also, but the fourth merchant from Hemingway known to have issued tokens. By the way, the town of Hemingway was known as Lambert prior to 1914 and tokens exist from W.C. Hemingway & Co. showing Lambert, SC as the address.



# NC NEW FINDS

Bob King

This first token is an aluminum token typical of NC tokens from the early 1930s to the mid 1940s. Notice the reverse "cts" instead of the cent sign.



FARMERS / (TWO DOTS) / (STAR) SUPPLY  
(STAR) / (TWO DOTS) / HOUSE // (STAR)  
GOOD FOR (STAR) / 10 / CTS. / IN TRADE –  
OCT AL 23 Rare (New Bern)

**Note:**

Farmers supply House is listed from 1932 to 1962 and beyond as feed, seed and general store in New Bern.

This next token appears to be from the early days of Mr. Hester's business.



W.W. HESTER / (ORNAMENT) /  
BLADENBORO, / N.C. / (ORN) // GOOD FOR  
/\$100 / -IN- / MERCHANDISE – RD AL 35

Rare

**Note:**

W.W. Hester owned a general store from 1915 through 1918. He was out of business from 1919 through 1922. The listing continues from 1923 through 1930.

The Gerken Tobacco Token is different from most NC Tokens with a large 23 of unknown purpose on the obverse and an ornate reverse.



GERKEN / '23 / TOBACCO CO. // GOOD FOR 5¢ / (ORN) / G.T. CO. / (ORN) / SOFT DRINK – RD AL 25 Rare (Wilmington)

**Note:**

Henry J. Gerken is listed from 1896 through 1905 as tobacco and cigars. In 1906 the listing is for Henry J. Gerken and Company, tobacco and cigars. Gerken Tobacco Company is listed from 1907 through 1913 as retail tobacco products owned by Henry J. Gerken.

This W.D. Ward token is my second token from Mt. Tabor and I have been unable to find any information on either of the issuing businesses. Visits to the local library and register of deeds were fruitless. The obverse and reverse are identical on this token



W.D. WARD, / 1¢ / MT. TABOR, N.C. //  
(REVERSE SAME AS OBVERSE) – RD AL  
19 Rare

**Note:**

Since this token is from “Mt. Tabor” it means this business was active between 1885, when the town was settled, and June 15, 1895 when the town was re-named Tabor.

The Reep's Store token below is a typical brass NC Token from the 1920s and 1930s. I worked on this attribution off and on for several years before enough information was found to call it Max L. Reep's Store.



REEP'S / STORE // (DIAMOND) GOOD FOR (DIAMOND) / 5¢ / IN TRADE – RD BR 19

Rare

**Note:**

Max L Reep owned a general store and grocery from 1925 through 1930 in Mount Holly.

When I first saw this D.L. Parker Token on E-Bay the owner had attributed the token to Henderson and he called the business a bottler. I

was very skeptical because "at bar" was on the token and bar tokens from NC are scarce and a bar that was also a bottler was even more unlikely. The note following the token description shows that the owner was correct.



D.L. PARKER / (STAR) / (ORN) // GOOD FOR / 5¢ / AT BAR – RD BR 25 Rare

**Note:**

D.L. Parker is listed from 1898 through 1904 as a saloon. In 1905 the listing changes to a bottler and continues through 1911. Mr. Parker is listed from 1912 through 1914 as a grocer. This token is from the saloon.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### WANTED

**WANTED: ANY AND ALL RARE TOKENS FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.** Will pay top prices or will trade from my extensive trading stock. I have traders from all over the country. Tony Chibbaro, PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29127 phone: 803-252-1881, email: [chibbaro@mindspring.com](mailto:chibbaro@mindspring.com)

**WANT TO BUY YOUR NORTH CAROLINA TOKENS.** One is great and 2 or more is even better. I will send a self addressed shipping envelope with a money order and all you have to do is tape the envelope and pitch it in the mail. Bob King, 709 Cardinal Dr, Brevard, NC 28712-4260 [tokenaddict@citcom.net](mailto:tokenaddict@citcom.net) 828-883-8028



There were tokens, tokens, tokens, at the Hendersonville meeting, and everyone was after them!

## **ALERT TO CAROLINA COLLECTORS (AND OTHERS)**

### **Bob King**

After visiting the Smokemont and Oconaluftee area, I have found that Champion Fibre Company is more accurately located at Oconalufthy than Smokemont. When this business was in operation the town was spelled Oconalufthy while today's spelling is Oconaluftee.

Also, there is a modern re-strike, made by the National Park Service, of a Champion Fibre Company 5. The differences are:

1. The piece is in white metal vs brass for the original.
2. The size is 25mm vs 20mm for the original.

It is a nice piece for \$4.95 but we all know it will end up on E-Bay for sale as an original.

And there is another re-strike. This one from a Tennessee C.C.C. token as described below.

**- CO.- / 1460 / SEVIERVILLE TENN // GOOD FOR / 5c / IN TRADE – RD WM 25**

**CARTS Membership and Dues:** Membership in CARTS is open to anyone interested in the exounia of the two Carolinas. Annual dues are \$10.00 and should be mailed to the treasurer, Bob King. Checks should be made payable to CARTS.

**CARTSNEWS:** CARTSNEWS, the newsletter of CARTS, is published four times per year in February, May, August, and November.

**Advertising:** Each member is encouraged to submit one classified ad per issue. These ads are free to members. Free ads should be no more than 50 words in length. No ads will be run continuously; a new ad must be submitted for each issue. The editor reserves the right to edit ads for length and any ad thought not to be in the best interest of the hobby will be rejected.

Paid advertising is also solicited. The rate per issue for paid ads is as follows. One quarter page \$3.00, one half page \$6.00, and full page \$11.00. Any paid advertising, along with payment, should be sent to the editor by the fifteenth of that month before the month of issue. So, for example, advertising copy for the May issue should be received by the editor by April 15. Camera ready copy will be accepted, but the editor will also compose ads from your rough copy if you desire. As with free advertising the editor may reject any ad thought not in the best interest of CARTS or the hobby at large.